



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Meeting Minutes 02/21/2007

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE  
 MINUTES OF MEETING  
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING  
 2/21/07

### ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*	Fey	Dunn*	O'Neill	Mahoney
DeCoursey	Connors*	Simmons*	Bayer*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan	
Ferrara*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Kneeland*

\* Indicates present

VISITORS: Director of Assessments Bob Greeley, Retirement Board Administrator Rich Grecco, Retirement Board Chair John Bilafer (by phone), Transportation Advisory Board Members Jeff Maxtutis, Elizabeth Carr-Jones, 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee CoChair Roly Chaput, Selectman Annie LaCourt

MINUTES of 2/5/07 accepted as printed. Unanimous.

ART64 REVALUATION: Greeley explained that state law requires the listings of all properties to be updated every 9 yrs by interior & exterior inspection. Arlington must complete by 2009. He plans to carry out in summer of '07 & '08 using contractor. Cost expected to be \$25/residence & \$40/personal property. His office will do the valuation based on the revised listings. VOTED \$325k as requested and as included in 5 yr plan. Unanimous

ART26 PENSION FUNDING PROGRAM: Bilafer proposes to extend the fully funded date for the pension program 3 yrs and use the funds freed up annually, \$300k to \$400k, to fund the retiree health care program. Home rule legislation would force these funds to be used in this way. Extensive discussion. There is really only one liability. This action would not apply more funds to total liability. No one knows what the rating agencies will do. Bilafer believes that this action will protect Arlington's bond rating. VOTED no action on Art 26 & Art. Unanimous.

ART 56 PENSION ADJUSTMENT: Bilafer stated that this annual article is intended to protect the pensions of retirees w/ at least 25 years of service by tying their pensions to the corresponding active employee. Annual cost \$36k. VOTED favorable action. Unanimous.

ART 57 TRANSFER OF HEALTH CARE FUNDS: Bilafer proposed transferring all funds from the recent 5% increase in retiree health care payments, \$155k, along with the Medicare reimbursement, \$350k, and the reduction in non-contributory retirement payments, \$310k, to a temporary Health Care Stabilization Fund. Several members believe this fund should be controlled by the Treasurer. Sense of meeting vote to pursue this idea.

ART 51 GEORGE STREET SIDEWALK: Maxtutis & Carr-Jones stated that the TAC would like to see the short private way section of this street used by parents when dropping off their children at the Dallin School become a public way with a sidewalk. They believe this would improve safety. Currently students are not supposed to walk on

this street. The sidewalk cost, \$10k, would be in the DPW budget. No survey has been done. The 4 abutters have not agreed to donate their land. Some members suggested that children would be safe if they obeyed the signs & walked around. Deferred action pending more information.

ART 59 200<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE: Chaput, using a handout, reviewed the activities already done & upcoming plans including the funds raised. He requested \$6200. Although supportive, the FinCom requested a printed fiscal status report.

ART 18 DATA PROCESSING DEPT: LaCourt wants the IT functions of the Comptroller's office, 4 employees, to be transferred to a new department under the Town Manager. She is negotiating w/ the Superintendent to include the school IT functions. She proposes a senior manager. She expects this reorganization will reduce duplication and provide better service to all departments. Jones to draft a statement of support for what will be a BoS article.

COMMITTEE: Next mtg Monday 2/26/07. Schools hearing 4/4.  
RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$350,000

Peter B Howard Secretary 2/22/07 Revised 2/26/07

cc FinCom Members, Selectmen, Town Manager, Comptroller, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site

#### VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Result Unlisted votes were unanimous
18	Data Processing Department Transfer	2/21	2/21	Jones to draft vote
26	Pension Funding	2/21	2/21	No action
27	Health Care Trust Funds	2/5	2/21	No action
39	Collective Bargaining			
40	Future Collective Bargaining			
41	Salary Adjustments/Elected officials			
42	Carbon Bank	2/5		No report
43	Energy manager	2/5		Carman – Belmont plan Howard-Vision 2020
36	SPED Fund			
45	Capital Budget			
48	Town Celebrations			
49	Committees & Commissions			
50	Miscellaneous			
51	George St Sidewalk	2/21		Need more info
52	School Facilities Working Group			
53	Sewers			
54	Water			
56	Pension Adjustments	2/21	2/21	Favorable action
57	Transfer Retiree Health Care Funds	2/21		Tosti to draft vote
59	200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee	2/21		Need more info
61	Town & School Budgets	2/5		Finances Sub to investigate
62	Harry Barber Program			
63	Minuteman Senior Services			

64	Revaluation	2/21	2/21	\$325,000
65	Tip Fee Stab Fund			
66	Cemetery			
67	Overlay Reserve			
68	Stabilization Fund			
69	Free Cash			
72	W&S Health Insurance Offsets	2/5		Finances Sub to investigate